

WHEREAS, Maryland is inextricably linked to the histories of the American Indians with reminders of their legacy speaking to Marylanders through the names of its counties, parks, and waterways including, Wicomico County, Allegany County, Seneca State Park, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay, the Nation's largest estuary, that derives its name from the Powhatan Indian word "Chesepiooc" meaning "Great Shellfish Bay"; and

WHEREAS, American Indian societies exhibited a respect for the finite quality of natural resources through a deep respect for the Earth, and such values continue to be widely held today; and

WHEREAS, The people of Maryland should be reminded of the assistance given to the early European visitors to North America by the ancestors of today's American Indians, including knowledge and training provided to the Pilgrims in survival hunting and cultivation and fertilization of indigenous crops; and

WHEREAS, American Indian people have served with valor in all wars that the United States has engaged in, from the Revolutionary War to the conflict in the Persian Gulf, often serving in greater numbers, proportionately, than the population of the Nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, In recognizing the many contributions made by the American Indians to the United States, ~~Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton~~ President Jimmy Carter, President Ronald W. Reagan, President George Bush, and President William J. Clinton have ~~all~~ *each* issued national proclamations during their administrations declaring the month of November as "American Indian Heritage Month"; and

WHEREAS, The Members of the Senate and House of Delegates believe that a resolution and proclamation of the nature requested in this resolution can encourage activities which provide positive benefits of enhanced self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness to young American Indians; and

WHEREAS, November is a time when many Marylanders commemorate a special time in the history of the United States when American Indians and English settlers celebrated the bounty of their harvest and the promise of new kinships; and

WHEREAS, The month of November concludes the traditional harvest season of American Indians and was generally a time of celebration and giving thanks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the month of November is designated as "American Indian Heritage Month"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That schools, libraries, State and local governments, and other organizations within the State should appropriately observe this month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That State and local governments will use the month of November to assess the ways to improve understanding, cooperation, and communication with American Indians, especially those residing within Maryland's borders; and be it further